बिहार के हजारीबाग जिले में कोलियरी में आग

1497. **श्री ज्ञान रंजन:** क्या कोयला मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि:

(क) क्या बिहार के हजारीबाग जिले में सपाल मोड़ सौदाडीह कोलियरी में गत छः माह से आग लगी हुई है जिससे सी०सी०एल० की आवासीय कालोनी में रहने वाले दस हजार लोगों का जीवन असुरक्षित हो गया है;

(ख) क्या यह भी सच है कि खान सुरक्षा महानिदेशक तथा सी०सी०एल० के अधिकारियों द्वारा अब तक कोई कार्रवाई नहीं की गई है; और

(ग) यदि उपर्युक्त भागों के उत्तर "हां" हैं, तो सरकार दोषी अधिकारियों के विरुद्ध क्या कार्रवाई करने का विचार रखती है तथा आग को बुझाने और उन दस हजार लोगों के जान-माल की रक्षा करने के लिए सरकार क्या उपाय करने का विचार रखती है?

कोयला मंत्रालय की राज्य मंत्री (श्रीमती कान्ति सिंह): (क) जी, नहीं। किन्तु एक लघु भाग स्वतः प्रज्वलित होने के कारण बिहार के हजारीबाग जिले की भुर्कुण्डा कोलियरी की एक बंद पड़ी खान में नोटिस में आई थी। इस आग पर ऊपरी मलबा सामग्री डम्प करके रोक लगा दी गई है।

(ख) और (ग) उपर्युक्त भाग (क) के उत्तर को दृष्टिगत करते हुए प्रश्न ही नहीं उठता है।

Expenditure on Stowing Operation and Development of Roads in Colliery Areas

1498. SHRI DIPANKAR MUKHERJEE: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) the provisions in the budget during last three years for expenditure from the net proceeds of cess towards conservation including stowing operation and development of roads in colliery areas;

(b) the physical targets and the actual achievements in regard to each item of expenditure provided for in the budget during the last three years; and

(c) the details of the work undertaken in 1996-97 for conservation and safety in mines from the above provisions in the budget?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRIMATI KANTI SINGH): (a) and (b) The budget provision to meet the expenditure towards conservation including stowing and development of transport infrastructure in coalfield areas out of the excise duty (cess) collected under the Coal Mines (Conservation & Development) Act, 1974 and actual expenditure the last three years was as under:—

(Rs. crores)

		1993-94		1994-95		1995-96	
		Budget	Actual	Budget	Actual	Budget	Actual
(a)	Conservation including stowing	38.20	37.23	40.00	39.99	45.00	37.55
(b)	Development of transport infrastructure in coalfield areas	27.00	27.00	40.59	40.59	55.00	55.00

The coal companies undertake stowing, protective works and construction of roads and subsequently approach the Coal Conservation and Development Advisory Committee (CCDA) cosntituted in terms of provisions of Coal Mines (Conservation & Development) Rules, 1975 for subsidy against these works from the funds collected through excise duty collected under the Coal Mines (Conservation & Development) Act, 1974. The proposals of coal companies

are examined from the point of view of eligibility of subsidy on a case to case basis within the limits of the budget.

The existing guidelines provide for reimbursement upto 75% of the cost of protective works, 35% of cost of sand stowing and 50% of the cost of construction of roads, while the balance cost has to be borne by the concerned coal company and in some cases of road construction by the concerned State Governemnt as well.

(c) For the year 1996-97 the following budget provision alongwith anticipated expenditure is given below:

(Rs. in crores)

		Budget provision	Anticipated expenditure
1.	Conservation including stowing	50.00	50.00
2.	Development of transport infrastructure in coalfield areas	50.00	50.00

Pact on Coal signed between India and U.K.

1499. DR. D. VENKATESHWAR RAO: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether India and U.K. signed a pact on coal recently;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the benefits India is likely to get out of the pact?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRIMATI KANTI SINGH): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. A Memorandum of Understanding between Govt. of India and United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland was signed on 11th Jan., 1997 for launching an Indo-British Coal Forum. The broad objective of launching the coal forum is to broaden the scope of cooperation between coal related industries of the two countries through the creation of a productive partnership for peaceful purposes and for mutual benefit.

(c) India is likely to be benefited from cooperative activities under this Memorandum of Understanding as given below:

(i) Meeting of various forms, such as those of experts, the discuss and exchange information on relevant coal related project.

(ii) Sharing information on each other's plans, capabilities and needs;

(iii) Indentifying suitable mining and related projects for cooperation;

(iv) Indentifying and exploring ways of introducing appropriate technology and efficient management practice into Indian coal/lignite mining and related industries;

(v) Examining and identifying suitable methods of financing;

(vi) Exploring the possibilites of the industries of the two countries working together in third countries; and

(vii) Cooperating in the field of skills development and training;

(viii) Other forms of cooperative activities as may be mutually agreed.

Allocation of Coal Mines lease to Private Sector

1500. SHRI AKHILESH DAS: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have clearly defined for acquiring mining lease of coal mining operation to private sector;

(b) the number of domestic and foreign companies who have so far been allocated coal blocks and whether terms and conditions have been specified to them; and

(c) if so, the details in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRIMATI KANTI SINGH): (a) The detailed